

HOWDEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR ENDING
December 31st, 1956

HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1956.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—Area (in acres) 69,963.

2—Estimate of the average population of the area during 1956: Civilian 11,730.

3—Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £286/3/9.

The number of Houses built by the Council since 1946 is 480.

The chief industry throughout the District is Agriculture ; other employment being provided by the Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways, Market Gardening, and the Haulage Industry.

Public Health Officers

A part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr. I. D. Kennaugh.

Additional Public Health Inspector: Mr. E. K. Philpot.

Clerk/Typist: Mrs. B. Harlington.

The Chief Public Health Inspector also acts as the Council's Building Surveyor and is responsible for the Water Undertaking, Public Cleansing and maintenance of Council property.

Both present Inspectors hold the Statutory qualification and the Chief Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and Hygiene as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

				M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	96	84
	Illegitimate	...	...	6	4
				—	—
	Total	...	...	102	88
				—	—
Still Born—	Legitimate	...	...	3	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	0	0
				—	—
	Total	...	...	3	3

The Birth Rate in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Population: 16·0.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1956 per 1,000 Population: 15·2.

Stillbirths

There were 6 Stillborn Babies in the Howden Rural Area during 1956. All were Legitimate Births.

Infant Mortality

There were 4 Deaths of Infants under one year of age. Two were under 4 weeks old. This was out of 190 Births during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Pathological Examinations are carried out at the Beverley Area Laboratory and the West Riding Laboratory, Wakefield.

Infant Welfare

This has now been taken over by the County Medical Officer, and continues to be well attended.

Maternity

County Maternity Nurses are available in all parts of the Area.

Beds in the Beverley, Ferriby and Goole Maternity Homes are available for Special Cases, and the District is now fortunately situated in this respect.

Water

The supply from Newbald, Goole and Pocklington is good average water, and regular testing proves it to be very free from Impurity.

Ambulance Services

There is a complete night and day Ambulance Service available at Beverley, Goole and Selby.

Wherever alternative means of conveyance is possible and suitable, use should be made of it.

Blood Transfusion

During the year the Blood Transfusion Service came to Howden to collect Blood, and the Donors of the Area responded to the Call in a highly satisfactory way.

Our thanks are due to them, and also to the valuable help given by the Howden Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

Hospitals

The Goole Bartholomew Hospital increases its facilities year by year, and Specialists in every Branch of Medicine and Surgery are available for the population of the Howden Rural Area,

The York Hospitals offer similar facilities for the Northern part of the Area, whilst for the Eastern Villages, Hull and Beverley provide the necessary Hospitals.

The St. John's Hospital in Goole has considerably extended its availability for Medical Cases.

The days on which these Specialists are at Goole are as follows:—

Monday: Physician.

Tuesday Morning: Orthopædic.

Tuesday Afternoon (alternate): Gynæcologist.

Wednesday Morning: Surgeon.

Thursday Morning: Eye Specialist.

Thursday Morning: Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Thursday Afternoon: Surgeon.

Friday Afternoon: Venereal Diseases.

A Children's Specialist visits the Goole Infant Welfare Centre.

There is no Fever Hospital in the Area.

Deaths

	M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths in the Howden Rural Area in 1956	66	59	125

Death Rate per 1,000 Population in the Howden Rural Area: 10·6.

Death Rate for England and Wales: 11·7.

Chief Causes of Death

Heart and Circulatory Diseases: 51.

Cancer, including Cancer of Lung: (4) 20.

Vascular Lesions of Nervous System: 13.

Accidents, including Road Traffic: 8.

Tuberculosis: 1.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis: 20.

All other causes: 13.

There were no Deaths from any other Notifiable Infectious Disease.

There has been a lot of publicity given recently to Cancer of the Lung and its relationship to smoking. Here are one or two facts which are worth noting:

1. Pipe smokers are no more liable to Cancer of the Lung than the rest of the community.
2. The cigarette smoker who does not inhale is also very unlikely to contract the disease.
3. Why is it about 5 times as frequent in men as in women?
4. The enormous increase of Cancer of the Lung during the past 25 years may be equally due to the tar spraying of roads or exhaust gases from road traffic.

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from Puerperal Causes: 0.

Infant Mortality

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in the Howden Area 	2	2	4

Conclusions

The Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area is a little above the Birth Rate for England and Wales, and the Death Rate is very much lower.

Again there was only one Death from Tuberculosis, another great tribute to the wonderful work done by the Tuberculosis Medical Officers and their Staff in the Area. There were no Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Tuberculosis

During 1956 there was one Death from Tuberculosis and six new cases were notified.

The following notifications of Infectious Disease were notified:—

Scarlet Fever 1; Whooping Cough 59; Measles 22; Pneumonia 15; Tuberculosis 1; Erysipelas 2.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccinations 114; Re-Vaccinations 14.

Immunisation 114; Booster Immunisation 10.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration a brief report concerning the Sanitary Administration of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

HOUSING GENERAL

Council Houses

During the year under review, the following houses were completed and occupied:—

Howden	...	...	20	Traditional
Gilberdyke	...	...	6	„
Eastrington	2	„
Newport	16	„
Bubwith	2	„
				—
				46

Houses in the Course of Erection

North Cave	12
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At the 31st December, 1956, the total of post-war Council Houses reached 480. Thus there is a total of 660 Council Houses in the District.

The maintenance of Council property again called for a considerable amount of time, and 985 visits were made to Council Houses in respect of maintenance and orders for repairs were given. No external painting of houses was carried out during the year.

Private Enterprise

During the year 31 houses were erected by Private Enterprise, and at the year end a further 6 were in the course of erection.

Other Houses, Conversions and Adaptations

Two completed.

Building Byelaws, Town and Country Planning Act

Applications for new buildings and alterations in 130 cases were submitted, and except for two which were withdrawn, all were given Byelaw approval.

Under delegated powers of the Town and Country Planning Act, 119 applications were made, of which 110 were approved, 8 refused and 1 withdrawn.

During the year 529 building inspections were made, comprising 185 visits to new houses and 344 to other work.

Meetings of the County Development Sub-Committee were attended and liaison maintained with the County Planning Department.

Housing

During the year work proceeded on the Council's 5-year Clearance Plan, and Demolition Orders were made on 30 properties. At the time of writing this report it is difficult to see this programme being completed, as the majority of properties worthy of condemnation are occupied by either aged or single people, who require small bungalows or low-rented houses, therefore until the Council can offer such accommodation, the position is that Demolition Orders are made and not enforced until the death or departure of the occupant.

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	30
Houses demolished voluntarily and as a result of formal procedure	...	...	...	...	...	16
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 still in force	...	...	...	...	...	1

Inspections, Re-inspections and Repair

Number of houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	84
Number of houses found unfit	...	...	...	...	31
Number of houses found in disrepair	...	...	...	...	53
Number of houses where repairs were executed	...	...	...	...	33
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	Nil

Overcrowding

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cases abated	...	...	...	...	...	3

Moveable Dwellings

There are no licensed sites in the District, but 5 applicants have obtained temporary planning permission to station caravans for varying periods in the District. During the year 11 sites involving 15 caravans were subject to unauthorised use and only after repeated visits and threats were the offenders moved on.

Sites inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dwellings inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Improvement Grants

Forty-five enquiries were made during the year and inspections totalled 139, covering preliminary visits to the premises and supervision of works in progress. Applications for grants received numbered 11, and 10 were approved. At the year end improvements had been completed on 4 properties and were in progress on 6. In addition, works were completed at 7 premises for which grant was approved in 1955, thus 11 dwellings were improved during the year 1956. The total amount of grant made during the year was £2,777/10/-, making a total of £8,233/10/- granted since the commencement of Improvement Grants.

As in previous years, it was again found that the people taking advantage of Improvement Grants were either owner-occupiers or owners of farm cottages. In many cases the applicants preferred to carry out staggered improvements at their own expense rather than proceed with the grant. This is aggravating to this department, in view of the time spent on preliminary inspection, re-visits, preparation of schedules of repair and improvement. The reason for this is a mistaken belief on the applicant's part that an Improvement Grant is available for limited improvement only, and when informed that full improvement is necessary the finances are too limited to allow for such.

Drainage and Sewerage

It was in this branch of work that real progress occurred during the year. The main sewerage schemes for Howden Town and North Cave were completed during the year and put in general use. In order to encourage property owners to connect their premises to the sewer, the Council agreed to pay £10 towards the cost of any voluntary conversions.

Howden Town

The main scheme for Howden was completed in August, but due to various reasons the sewer itself was not put in general use until October. An exception was made, however, in the case of the two schools where conversion took place during the summer holiday and connection to the sewer was allowed. During the year lengths of sewer were laid as follows:—

6" S.G.W.: 64 lin. yards.

7" S.G.W.: 529 lin. yards.

7" spun iron: 140 lin. yards.

At the year end, 141 premises, including the two schools, had been connected to the new sewer. Closets converted numbered 45 at 27 premises. Premises already with w.c.s redrained to the sewer numbered 114 with 120 w.c.s.

North Cave Sewerage Scheme

This scheme commenced in January and was completed in September, during which period the following lengths of sewer were laid:—

9": 380 lin. yards.

6": 3,485 lin. yards.

4" rising main: 652 lin. yards.

House connections to curtilage: 960 lin. yards.

At the year end, 38 premises had been connected to the sewer. Closets converted numbered 10 at 10 premises. Premises already with w.c.s redrained to the sewer numbered 28 with 28 w.c.s. Thus at North Cave and at Howden, with the exception of a few properties at North Cave, it is now possible for all premises to have a satisfactory drainage system.

Joint Sewerage Scheme

During the year 1,924 lin. yards of 12" and 2,243 lin. yards of 15" Joint Sewer were laid in this district. It is hoped, therefore, that main schemes for Hotham, Newport and Gilberdyke will follow in the near future.

General Drainage

Cleansing of sanitary dykes continued in an attempt to reduce complaints until main drainage is available throughout the district, and work was carried out to the Old Derwent, South Howden Laxton, Nordham, Eastrington, Asselby, Holme-on-Spalding Moor and Newport. In connection with the same, 63 inspections were made.

Sewerage Plants

The total of Council Estate Disposal Plants is now 7, excluding Howden and North Cave; maintenance of these is performed by local men on a part-time basis. A full-time sewerage attendant was appointed in the early part of the year; consequently each plant is visited regularly and all mechanical breakdowns attended to. Visits by the Officers in connection with these totalled 107.

Conversions and Drainage

The number of inspections in connection therewith are:—

Drainage systems found defective ...	...	...	53
New drainage systems provided ...	...	...	26
Drainage systems cleansed and repaired ...	...	...	27
Pail closets converted to w.c.s ...	...	...	36

Improved sanitary accommodation provided:—

(a) In public houses ...	...	...	...	4
(b) Schools ...	...	...	...	2
(c) In petrol filling stations ...	...	...	...	1

Liaison is maintained with both River Boards covering the district to control new drainage and avoid pollution. The standard septic tank adopted after consultation with the River Boards continues to be used where no main sewer is available.

Public Cleansing

The weekly collection in the more densely populated areas and fortnightly collection elsewhere was maintained throughout the year.

Tipping sites are in use at Eastrington, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, North Cave and Howden. The scattered nature of the district and lack of tip sites still presents the main difficulty.

The provision of main drainage at the end of 1956 had no material effect of improving conditions of refuse collection and the nature of refuse, but it is hoped that the benefit of this drainage will be felt as progress is made with closet conversions.

Meat and Food Inspection

FOOD PREMISES.—It is to be regretted that, due to pressure of work in other branches, this aspect of work was severely neglected within the year. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/56, came into operation and every owner or occupier of Food Premises was notified of the provisions of these regulations. It was, however, impossible to inspect all the premises and enforce the provisions.

Nevertheless, many persons in charge of food premises consulted this department as to improvement of conditions at their premises, and after receiving advice many carried out the necessary works. As is often the case, however, many remained unmoved, and until time can be afforded for the inspection of these premises, and enforcement of the provisions of the Regulations, these persons and premises will remain static.

Meat Inspection

Licences have been issued for 15 slaughterhouses and 33 slaughtermen. In the former case these were all renewals of former licences.

The number of carcasses inspected is tabulated below, as are those of the previous years.

	1956	1955	1954
Beasts	1,014	864	412
Cows	4	21	13
Calves	5	8	8
Pigs	2,062	2,840	1,361
Sheep and Lambs ...	823	809	438
	<hr/> 3,908	<hr/> 4,542	<hr/> 2,232

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned, 1956

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs not known	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1,014	4	5	known	2,062	Nil
Number inspected ...	1,014	4	5	823	2,062	Nil
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	1		2	1	3	—
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	159		1	3	43	—
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.78 %		60 %	48 %	2.23 %	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	63	2	Nil	Nil	106	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.41 %	50 %	—	—	5.33	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	—	—	—	—	—
General and totally condemned	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

As in 1955, this work again occupied a considerable amount of time, but it was possible, except in the case of sheep and lambs, to maintain 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered. During the year, except for Bank Holidays, it was not necessary to work overtime.

I would reiterate my remarks of last year that provision of power authorising indelible staining of unsound meat would greatly assist in this matter.

The number of premises and inspections made is set out below:—

	No. of premises.	Inspections made.
Groceries and General Stores ...	79	21
Ice Cream Premises ...	16	14
Fish and Chip Shops ...	14	6
Cafés and Restaurants ...	15	9
Bakehouses ...	1	4
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops ...	16	936
Knacker's Yard ...	1	5
Milk Dealers' Premises ...	11	7
Public Houses ...	40	17

There are 18 premises registered under S.16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, comprising 16 Ice Cream premises and 2 Meat Products.

No foods other than meat were condemned or surrendered during the year.

Milk

Licences for the sale of Sterilised, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk have been issued for the district:—

11 Dealers' Licences for the sale of milk from premises in the district.

2 Supplementary Licences for the sale of milk from premises outside the district.

These two latter cover the greater part of the area.

Factories

Extracts from the statutory return of administration under the Factories Act, 1937, are given below:—

	No. on Register.	Inspections.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	42	37
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	9	21

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Referred
by H.M.

Sanitary Conveniences:	Found.	Remedied.	Inspector.
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—

Petroleum Regulations

The total amount of petrol storage licensed at the 31st December, 1956, was 54,780 gallons at 88 premises. Inspections made under the Regulations during the year numbered 11.

Water Supply

During the year major works were carried out from Canal Side West, Newport, to Leatherdog Lane, Gilberdyke. 1,450 yards of main was re-laid in conjunction with the road widening scheme. Other works consisted of repairing the roofs to the Pumping Stations at North Newbald and a section of the main at North Cave was diverted to allow for sewerage work.

At the year end the proposed link main from Spaldington to Howden had not been laid but the contract had been placed and it was hoped that work would be commenced in the early part of 1957.

The number of bursts and leaking mains repaired during the year totalled 44, a decrease of 26 on the previous year. 40 new connections to the main were made, there being 22 for dwellings and 18 for other purposes.

From the Council's Pumping Station at North Newbald a total of 146,550,000 gallons were pumped, and of this amount 56,707,000 gallons were supplied to the High Hunsley Reservoir and South Cave systems of Beverley R.D.C.

Bulk supplies taken from adjoining authorities were:—

From Goole Borough ... 17,864,000 gallons

From Pocklington R.D.C. 78,343,000 gallons

Thirteen routine bacteriological examinations of water supplied from North Newbald were made, and all found satisfactory. One private sample was taken from a dwelling-house, found to be unsatisfactory, and the premises were connected to the mains.

During the year 73 visits and inspections were made on matters connected with water supply.

Rodent Control

	Local Authority.	Houses.	Business Premises	Total of Cols. (1) & (2).	Agricultural. (3).
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	17	3729	339	4085	560
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	—	16	11	27	7
(b) Survey under the Act	17	53	32	85	12
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visiting primarily for some other purpose		1893	53	1946	33
3. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections	73	1962	96	2058	52
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:					
Rats (minor)	6	16	11	27	9
Mice (minor)	—	2	—	2	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A.	6	18	11	29	9
6. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	10	20	11	41	9

The figures show that rodent control work has mainly to be carried out as an ancillary to inspection for other purposes. As in the past, a workman who had been trained in this work left the Council's employment during the year, consequently the duties as previously were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

Miscellaneous

Eighty-seven inspections in connection with complaints, nuisances and other matters were made during the year.

Change of Designation

The designation Sanitary Inspector was changed during the year to Public Health Inspector.

Conclusion

As stated last year, work of the deparment has increased, particularly on Sewerage and Housing. Commencement of conversions in Howden Town and necessary inspections of new drainage have taken much time, and similar inspections have only been possible at North Cave by this work being undertaken by Mr. S. Turner, Clerk of Works. I must deplore the fact that some duties have received attention to the detriment of others, and whilst 100% efficiency has not been possible with staff available, I must record my appreciation of loyal support and co-operation afforded me during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. D. KENNAUGH,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

